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Letter dated 27 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the security situation in the ground safety zone (GSZ) extending 5 kilometres beyond the administrative border of Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, into the rest of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which is seriously threatened by persistent attacks on civilians and police alike by Albanian terrorists, infiltrating from Kosovo and Metohija and often even from the Republic of Albania, especially in the areas of the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo, Medvedja and Kursumlija. These attacks have intensified this year, in June and July in particular.

A total of 164 terrorist attacks were committed in GSZ in the period between 10 June 1999 and 18 July 2000, 105 of them armed attacks on civilians and police, 30 armed provocations and 29 raids aimed at plunder or intimidation. Twelve persons (7 civilians and 5 policemen) were killed, while 27 persons (23 policemen, 2 civilians and 2 members of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)), were wounded.

The breakdown for this year is particularly worrisome: 118 terrorist attacks, 88 of them armed attacks on civilians and police, 17 armed provocations and 13 raids. Eight persons (6 civilians and 2 policemen) were killed, 17 persons (15 policemen and 2 civilians) were wounded and 2 persons were abducted and their fate is still unknown. Twenty-seven armed attacks and 5 armed provocations were committed in June and July alone, primarily against police and police facilities, in which 10 policemen and ! civilian were wounded and 2 civilians abducted.

Heavy weapons are used ever more frequently and more and more ruthlessly. Five policemen were injured and a police vehicle was destroyed in the explosion of an anti-tank mine in the village of Konculj on 8 June. Two other mines were found and defused near the site of the explosion. Ninety-two 82-mm grenades were fired in attacks on local police in the villages of Dobrosin, Konculj, Rudnik and Lucane on 17 and 18 July in which one policeman was seriously and three lightly wounded. A number of police vehicles and facilities were damaged. On 21 July, two explosive devices were planted in each of the buildings of the Bujanovac Town Hall and the Municipal Court in Presevo. One policeman was wounded in the explosions and extensive material damage was caused; yet, considering the institutions in which the devices had been planted, it is evident that the intention was to cause massive

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casualties. Explosive devices were also found and defused in a part in Presevo on the same day.

The largest number of attacks was committed by terrorist groups which infiltrated GSZ from the area of responsibility of the United States contingent of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Kosovo and Metohija. So far, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia has made 15 intercessions, 9 of them this year, with KFOR to protest these attacks. None of them seems to have helped improve the situation.

It is evident that Albanian extremists have intensified their terrorist activities and that their aim is to destabilize GSZ. By turning a blind eye, KFOR and UNMIK have become accessories to this shameful undertaking in wanton disregard of their obligations under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and the military-technical agreement concluded between military authorities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 9 June 1999 (S/1999/682, enclosure). The failure of the international presences to take action has emboldened Albanian terrorists and accounted for the tragic loss of many human lives and extensive material damage, while the lack of action in their areas of responsibility is camouflaged by illegal incursions into GSZ, 120 in the past year.

The intensification of ethnic Albanian terrorism in GSZ is yet another piece of evidence that the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has not been demilitarized and disarmed and that it is the main generator of instability in Kosovo and Metohija and outside it.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to condemn the terrorist attacks in GSZ staged by KLA and to take effective measures to put an end to these activities and prevent their spread outside Kosovo and Metohija.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.